



Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for

GARAGE SALE



1. Never answer personal questions about your alarm system, regular habits, living situation, children's schools, what's in your house, etc.
2. Make sure that all valuable items are securely stored inside the house. Don't be tempted to hide your handbag/keys/purse/wallet/phone outside.
3. Ensure all possessions that you do not want to sell (or have stolen) are out of sight/covered and/or secured, e.g., bikes, wine, surf boards, plants in containers (!).
4. Keep the items inside the property boundary, i.e., not on your council strip. Despite the name 'garage sale', it is advisable to have the items on your lawn/driveway. Collect expensive items all in the one place nearest to you/ the intended checkout table. To avoid concealment opportunities, put large items around the outside of the area. Video the whole area outside your home as a simple inventory of items for sale AND any not for sale (see #6 below).
5. You cannot sell dangerous goods, chemicals, faulty electrical items, or firearms.
6. After the garage sale, check that all home security systems are operable & have not been disabled to help facilitate later unauthorised entry. Conduct an inspection (using video inventory in #4 above) to identify any missing items. Please remember to remove all advertising after the event.
7. Check with your insurance company to ensure you are covered for any thefts that occur because of a garage sale at your dwelling. Look online for council rules.
8. It never hurts to take precautions. Apply all necessary security measures prior to and after the garage sale, e.g. In case of customers looking the night before, lock all doors & windows, set the alarm, leave lights on, etc.
9. Lock all doors into your home, including any joining doors, garage doors, shed doors, and yard gates, even if you plan to go in and out during the day. Remove keys. Don't be tempted to pop a door on the latch. Set your alarm system. Advise neighbours to also lock their properties and be vigilant.
10. Do not allow access to your property, e.g., to use your bathroom, or to try on clothes. Use an extension cord from your home/garage to test any electrical items.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 9799
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1 800 555 727

11. Be careful of distractions, e.g., by a request for water, or to borrow your phone. Beware of criminals working as a team. One person may engage you chatting, whilst the other steals items, or enters your property (see #9 above!).
12. Never be alone—Ask for help running the garage sale, preferably 2 or more. Invite friends to sell their items with yours and thus gain help. And remember water, sunscreen, hat, food, medicine, and how will you take a toilet break?
13. If you have kids or pets, consider lending them out for the day. They are difficult to supervise, vulnerable & may distract you from the customers.
14. Criminals are just like us. They don't advertise the fact. Even little old ladies can be thieves. Greet all shoppers, so they know they have been seen. Mingle, make eye contact and be observant: age, height, clothing, hair & eye colour, etc. Would-be burglars may be scoping your home as a future target.
15. Don't be bullied! Stand your ground. Some people can get aggressive about getting a look, or a price. Be prepared to call for help with an unruly shopper.
16. Accept only cash. Keep all money on you, e.g., use a 'bum belt/fanny pack', rather than a cash box. Remove accumulated cash during the day. Beware large notes – they could be used to see how much money you have, or counterfeit. Familiarise yourself with the checks for counterfeit notes:
<https://banknotes.rba.gov.au/counterfeit-detection/counterfeit-detection-guide/>
17. Charge your phone the night before & have it on you. Ensure emergency numbers are in your phone (see below). If in doubt – phone! Alternatively, you could use your home/ car's panic alarm. Consider a personal alarm.
18. Reassure family by sharing your position during the day, using a mobile phone App such as Glympse. Use the camera phone for recording licence plates. Finish the sale before the light goes.
19. Do not advertise as a 'moving sale'. You probably advertised your address on the Internet, local trees & lampposts, newspapers, etc. Be aware that criminals read this info too. Typical sales tips say "*advertise your 3 best items*" or "*flaunt what you've got!*" Note – If you do, you are giving an indication of the kind of items you possess. Do not wear expensive jewellery at the sale.
20. Rather than at home, suggest hosting with a group of others as a community sale at the local school/church/childcare centre. This protects you & your home.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.

Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.